[English]

(ii) Need to give Financial Aid to Government of Jammu and Kashmir for Rehabilitation of Refugees of Pak Occupied Kashmir

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : In 1947, just after the partition of the country, Pakistani guerillas and forces attacked Jammu and Kashmir territory and forcibly occupied the large areas of Jammu and Kashmir. During that war, about 34,000 families were forced to leave Pak Occupied Kashmir. Till then, these refugees have not been fully rehabilitated. Their following demands are yet to be met by the Central Government.

I pray to both the Central and State Governments to take immediate steps for fulfillment of their demands, as mentioned below:

1. Rs. 25,000 may kindly be paid to each family as a lump sum grant as agreed by late Prime Ministers, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi with the representatives of these refugees,

2. To pay compensation in lieu of the deficiency in the scale of land allotted to them at the market rate, as fixed by the Government of India about Rs. 5,000 per kanal,

3. To take immediate steps to register their claims of property left by them in Pak Occupied Kashmir, and

4. To take steps for the development of their colonies/basties as model towns/villages providing all basic amenities. Funds may be provided to the State Government for this purpose.

(iii) Need to Release Funds for Drinking Water Schemes in Coal-Belt of West Bengal

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol) : I would like to draw the attention of the House to the acute shortage of drinking water in coal-belt areas of West Bengal. Several representations were made about this problem to the Central Government but nothing has been done so far. It is to be mentioned here that the Public Health Department have submitted a rough estimate for this purpose to the tune of Rs. 4,66,00,000/- (Rupees four crore and sixty six lakh). Since the Government is earning a lot from the coal mines and the Prime Minister has assured the nation that priority would be given on drinking water, I would, therefore, request the Union Government kindly to arrange to release the above mentioned amount so that the scheme for providing drinking water to the coal-belt areas of West Bengal could be undertaken at an early date.

(iv) Need for Early Implementation of Pandiar-Punnampuzha Rivers Project for Sharing of Water Between Kerala and Tamil Nadu

*SHRI M. RAMANATHAN (Coimbatore) : Pandiar and Punnampuzha are two rivers that originate in Nilgiri hills of Tamil Nadu. But the water flows into Arabian Sea *via* Kerala and thus it is not utilised. It the water of these two rivers harnessed through link canals and stored in a reservoir, it would benefit in generating Hydel Power and irrigating several acres of land. This project is pending for a very long time.

During monsoon season plenty of water flowing in these rivers to the tune of about 500 TMC, flow away into the sea unused and untapped.

If this water could be channelised, thousands of acres of dry land in Coimbatore, Avinasi and Palladam could be irrigated. The people of these areas are left high and dry even without drinking water. This would greatly benefit the people of the region. So the Pandiar-Punnampuzha Project, the viable and useful project should be taken up immediately.

Several rounds of talks between Tamil Nadu and Kerala about the sharing of water through this project has not yet yielded any result.

I request the Central Government to take it up and initiate early action to implement this Pandiar-Punnampuzha Project that would benefit both Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

[Translation]

(v) Need to implement the scheme to allot surplus land to the landless unemployed people in the Country

SHRI RAMSAGAR (Barabanki) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there are vast tracts of infertile, barren, uneven and plateau lands in various parts of the country. Our country being agrarian, the masses in the countryside do have good knowledge of agriculture but they do not have agricultural land and all such people are facing unemployment. It is true that a number of people have been granted lands on lease due to their being landless. If all the surplus agricultural land, no longer in use for agriculture, in the country is converted into even land and distributed among the agricultural unemployed labourers after organising them into agricultural land armies, on the one hand it will enhance the agricultural productivity in the country, on the other land all the agricultural labourers will be fully benefited by the scheme. The work of distributing the entire surplus lands among the farmers after making these lands arable and by organising land armies has precedence in Uttar Pradesh earlier. Today this needs to be followed in the entire country.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Central Government to implement this scheme in the entire country.

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*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.